

Beacon Food Forest

Steering Committee Meeting

July 20, 1011

Attending: Jenny Pell (designer), Glenn H, Jackie C, Adam L, Daniel J, Julie H, Peter L, Christina O, Cheryl W

Purpose: To review 2nd public design meeting and view preliminary concept of a design that incorporates public and steering committee desires. Jenny will work up a final concept to present to the agencies along with presenting a summary of the results of comments on the three designs presented on July 13, 2011.

We agreed the 2nd meeting was terrific, the crowd of 70+ community members far exceeded our expectations. We were encouraged by how engaged folks were around the tables and the many that stayed on to offer additional comments and make suggestions.

We were especially heartened by the small group Chinese women, who were aided by an interpreter.

Jenny confirmed that the third concept, one which uses the entire site, was favored by the attendees. This design incorporates nut and fruit groves, a large meadow, playfield, and community gardening area in addition to p patches in two locations. This design is adaptable to the incremental growth of the Food Forest favored by the crowd. with intensive uses at the south end of the site. We discussed the possibility of a meadow that does not need mowing, with use of native grasses, wildflowers. Maybe as such, the city or the FF could get carbon credits. Another possibility would be to mow wide paths for access. Maybe there would be one mowed meadow (playfield) with benches and a play area. The group needs to decide how to use the site, perhaps 2 acres not being developed (yet). Jenny reiterated, "Value the marginal/use the edges".

Discussion of zones—can we ensure a spot to commune with nature in an urban area? Indicate such on the plan. Glenn reminded the group of the grant opportunity from Open Spaces/Sacred Places that could fund this. Also, what about a reflexology path.

Natives guild, this was brought up in the comments, perhaps there is grant money to fund this. Native edibles, maybe best in the north area where kids' space is and is readily accessible to the path to Jefferson Park. Water as a sacred place, reflecting pool, sculpture with water, big bowled basalt rocks that hold water.

How about a sound garden, to mask urban noise? Trellis with words of peace? Consider signage, each culture has a god/goddess of fertility and harvest. Signs explaining traditions add meaning. Birdhouses, bathouses, mason bees. Birdhouses could be great art project for the community, adults and kids working together, artist opportunity.

Discussion then shifted to break down the concept for each zone. Is there a central gathering space besides the shelter at the top of the slope? Do we need more dispersed throughout the site? Maybe one

near the south end or the lower central area. Should they interrupt some of the paths? In one area discussed this would require excavation and a hand railing to meet code. Favor dispersing the p patches and integrating them with other features, have a mixture of plot sizes, maybe some 20' x 20' where neighboring gardeners could also share a fruit tree (tree-patch). Possibility of having workshops on just how much you can grow in this size if you garden intensively).

Jenny will think about our ideas, wants a copy of all comments forwarded to her (Christina will do). She then asked, what did we like best about the design she brought us tonight—we like the demonstration garden, with the island effect, nut grove area and community gardening area, snack fruits (add some near the Dakota St parking lot), love the big nut trees, berry hedge (discussion of conflict with the paved path and fast bicycle traffic, maybe border the paved path with bark and then berries so pickers would not conflict). Like the utility area up high, so we wheelbarrow downhill! Maybe have 3 shade/picnic pavilions. Move trellises along the edges rather than at the base of the steep hill. Interest in a kids' parcour with rocks, fragrant plants. Concern for residents in house along south end, give them a peek a boo view into the site. We need to coordinate/inform them of the plans. Talk of getting the eco-building guild involved in the design/build of structures and tool shed.

Talked about the extent, should it be 4-5 acres managed? Three bin compost allowed, but Jenny suggested adding maybe 30 green cones dispersed thru the site, they are rat and raccoon proof.

Daniel strongly suggested putting placeholders for several ponds and other water features on the final concept plan sheet. Maybe indicate all as a "water redistribution system" running throughout the Food Forest.

Finally, we discussed the need to revamp the webpage and the need to find someone to help out. Cheryl has experience and can help.

Glenn confirmed the final public design meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 20 at the Jefferson Park Community Center in Hasselberg Hall. No kitchen.

Next SteerCo meeting will be mid August and we will meet at the FF site. Food is potluck, bring your own utensils. P Patch person may attend. We'll be talking about starting work on our management plan.

Raffle of goodness won by Peter and Daniel.

Steering committee Meeting June 2011

Attending: Glenn Herlihy, Adam Lindsey, Melanie Coerver, Briar Bates, Noam Gaster, Jacqueline Cramer, Christina Olson, Peter Lang ,

Agenda:

- Outreach – Discussion included outreach success and strategies, Melanie choose to do some electronic outreach, Noam will do Spanish-speaking businesses and go door to door with Jacquie. Events were named including Beacon Rocks, no one committed to any event, but electronic versions of the flier will be sent to those who want it and they can use to pass out fliers at events.
- July 13 Community Design Meeting: presentation/facilitation techniques; food , and agenda of the July 13 meeting was discussed. We want to **begin community input on a management plan**. Options must be explored: Farm Together Now by Amy Franceschni was introduced to the group as a compilation of current urban agriculture projects with community management styles; we can explore this.. The Landscape Architect and steering committee members will meet July 7 prior to the July 13 meeting to explore these topics. We discussed options that included interactive drawing on table cloths while people sat at tables and with copies of each design on the table.
- An interactive approach is desired for Facilitation style in the next meeting. Steering committee members wish to mix throughout the meeting instead of staffing tables. The facilitation style must be sensitive to the broad diversity on the hill.
- Food will be served at EL Centro de la raza with each member bringing some item and Jacquie will ask Quetzal and an Asian dish.
- P-Patch was approved to be our 3rd entity.

We will ask the designers what they need next to move forward with the design. We discussed possible ways for the community to vote on design options and design features.